

Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

Industry Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As of March 5, 2009

General Questions

1. Question: What are GSA and FAS doing as a result of the stimulus bill?

Answer: GSA is preparing a proactive response. The Public Buildings Service (PBS) has been allocated \$5.5 billion for construction, repairs and alterations of Federal buildings to enhance energy efficiency and environmentally friendly attributes. FAS is partnering with PBS to ensure quick and efficient implementation of the ARRA requirements. Additionally, FAS has its own ARRA mandate to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for the GSA fleet.

FAS has identified a core team of senior leaders across the organization to develop its strategy and lead implementation. We will focus on three areas in our response to the Act: Supporting External Customers, Supporting PBS, and Managing the GSA Vehicle Provision.

2. Question: How is FAS supporting external customers?

Answer: The team is finalizing a communication and outreach plan for external customers. Our initial focus is to emphasize the availability of offerings through the Multiple Award Schedules program, FAS Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs), and support offered via e-tools. We've already hosted one "Stimulus Solutions Event" in the Washington, DC area, and expect to hold additional outreach events to bring customers together with GSA Acquisition experts.

3. Question: How is FAS supporting PBS?

Answer: The FAS team is working closely with PBS partners to address the immediate need for Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) against GSA Schedules and other acquisition solutions in four broad functional areas: acquisition management, project management, energy services and legal support services. Energy solutions could address such areas as: lighting, controls, roofing, solar, windows, chillers, and advanced metering.

The BPAs are being developed nationally with support from employees across the country. Task Orders against the BPAs will be awarded at the PBS regional level. Establishing these national tools promotes consistency in implementation and facilitates uniform data reporting.

4. Question: How is FAS managing the GSA vehicle provision?

Answer: The team is taking proactive steps to ensure a transparent and accountable management system is in place. We are partnering with GSA's Office of Governmentwide Policy (OGP) to prepare an action plan and evaluation criteria to determine which vehicles will be replaced using the stimulus funding. GSA Fleet and Automotive will vet the plan through the Motor Vehicle Executive Council. Once approved, FAS will utilize its current systems and processes to execute the plan.

5. Question: I am not currently on a GSA Schedule. Is there a way for me to participate in ARRA work?

Answer: Companies that do not already hold a GSA contract can explore subcontracting opportunities with companies that are under contract. Subcontracting opportunities will likely exist within the BPAs covering GSA's own ARRA spending. Information about those awards will be available in the ARRA section of the [FAS Vendor Support Center](#) web site. Visit [GSA's eLibrary](#) to identify all Multiple Award Schedule contractors.

6. Question: How do I get my own contract for ARRA work?

Answer: Requirements will be posted on [e-Buy](#) for orders placed against GSA Schedules. All of the acquisition solutions will be synopsized on [FedBizOpps](#). It appears that requirements for Recovery related work will be specially coded on FedBizOpps so that the opportunities are easily identifiable. As we have more information, we will provide it.

7. Question: How long will it take me to get a GSA Schedule Contract?

Answer: If you do not currently hold a GSA Schedule contract, you can submit an offer. The amount of time it takes the Schedule contract to be awarded depends on the quality and completeness of your offer. When GSA receives a high quality offer, we are able to make awards in 120 days or less. To learn more about "Getting on Schedule," visit www.gsa.gov for more information.

8. Question: How do I let agencies know what my company can do?

Answer: Getting on Schedule is just the first step. Once you become a GSA Schedule contractor, you will be provided the opportunity to promote your offerings online via GSA Advantage!. You will also have access to an array of e-tools that you can use to put your best foot forward to the Federal buying community.

Following best practices posted on the [FAS Vendor Support Center](#) web site will help ensure you are reaching Federal agencies with the information they need to do business with you. Nearly 80 percent of Federal buyers use on-line tools like GSA Advantage! and GSA's e-Library to do their market research. Keeping your information up to date on these two sites is crucial to your success.

Being responsive to requirements advertised via [e-Buy](#) and [FedBizOpps](#) is another important step. Submit timely and quality proposals.

9. Question: How much money will go to small companies?

Answer: As part of its acquisition strategy, GSA identifies strategies to maximize the use of small businesses. Each acquisition's strategy will be unique to the products and services being acquired and the availability of small business coverage given that specific scope. GSA will drive small business participation either through direct procurements with small businesses or subcontracting requirements.

10. Question: Can I do consulting and/or acquisition support and also get contracts to do the work? How is the conflict of interest handled?

Answer: Contractors involved in acquisition support may be precluded from performing the work for which they are contracted if a conflict of interest exists. Additionally, contractors involved in construction project management will be specifically precluded from executing the work that their firm would also oversee.

Supporting PBS Questions

11. Question: We have heard there will be BPAs set up for PBS. Is this true?

Answer: Yes. The FAS team is working closely with PBS partners to address the immediate need for acquisition solutions in four functional areas: acquisition management, project management, energy services and legal support services. The energy solution sets could address such areas as lighting, controls, roofing, solar, windows, chillers, and advanced metering.

Note, not all of the acquisition solutions may be BPAs.

12. Question: Are they single award or multiple award?

Answer: It's likely that we will have a mix of both types. We're currently working with PBS teams to identify their requirements, and we'll provide more details as they are available.

Note, not all of the acquisition solutions may be BPAs.

13. Question: What products or services will these BPAs cover and how many BPAs do you anticipate?

Answer: The FAS team is working closely with PBS partners to address the immediate need for acquisition solutions in four functional areas: acquisition management, project management, energy services and legal support services. The energy solution sets could address such areas as lighting, controls, roofing, solar, windows, chillers, and advanced metering.

Note, not all of the acquisition solutions may be BPAs.

14. Question: How will they be issued?

Answer: The requirements will be posted on [e-Buy](#) for the Schedule BPAs. All of the acquisition solutions will be synopsized on [FedBizOpps](#).

15. Question: Will the BPAs and Acquisition solutions be optional or mandatory?

Answer: PBS partners are establishing these as national solutions that will be implemented regionally. PBS will use existing acquisition solutions as well as the new solutions being created in order to address ARRA requirements. Establishing national solutions promotes consistency in implementation and facilitates uniformed data reporting.

16. Question: Will there be any advance notice?

Answer: The requirements will be posted on [e-Buy](#) for the Schedule BPAs. All of the acquisition solutions will be synopsized on [FedBizOpps](#).

17. Question: Can other agencies use these BPAs or will there be additional BPAs for outside agencies?

Answer: These solutions are being established specifically for GSA use. FAS has not received any specific requests for establishing BPAs or providing other acquisition assistance for stimulus work from other customers.

18. Question: How soon will the solicitations and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) be issued?

Answer: The first solicitation, for acquisition management services, was advertised on [eBuy](#) and offers have been received. Urgency exists to get the remaining solicitations issued quickly. Companies can find opportunities by monitoring [e-Buy](#) and [FedBizOpps](#).